



September 1, 2020
3rd Quarter

Rocky Mountain High Shows Inc.

Welcome to September

It has been a very challenging year! Wow...COVID, RHDV2 and now the wild fires, what will the rest of the year bring? Our hobby will remain challenged for some time, but only time will tell how long and what the challenges will actually be. Our barn is still closed, vaccinated and bio-secured for now. Hoping that next year there will be shows, with competition and stellar animals. But most of all I hope to see our rabbit family to share hugs, handshakes and a meal afterward after the show.

The clubs books have been audited by Robin Vogel and found to be in good order. Debbie Cuvelier is still trying to sift through what has been a very challenging task of getting the accounts turned over to the new Board. The bank has been very difficult but we are continuing to move forward to make that happen. The awards email will be sent out this week so we can find out who wants their awards and to try to find out from each of the recipients how we can get the awards to them. I am responsible for the delays in getting the awards out to you all and I apologize.

RMHS has many longtime members, many of whom, in the past, have mentioned ways to make this a better, more responsive Club. Please help us live up to your expectations...give us your ideas. While there is not much for the Board to discuss at this time, it is a perfect time to get those member ideas acted upon.

The areas affected by RHDV2 are continuing to grow. I would encourage a voluntary rabbit herd quarantine until the RHDV2 infections can be effectively managed. I also strongly suggest that all breeders, at a minimum, enact a bio-security protocol to help protect your rabbits. I would encourage all of you to learn as much as you can about the RHD virus and follow the recommendations of the Agriculture Department & the ARBA.

Hope to see you all at a Rabbit Show soon!

Shawn

RMHS MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the RMHS statewide organization shall be

- to promote, improve, protect and grow the rabbit hobby;
- to educate, enrich and assist rabbit hobbyists; and
- To enhance, coordinate and unify policies and procedures in the best interest and high standards of our membership

Rmhshows.com

RHMS Officers

President

Shawn Layne 2020-2021
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Vice-President

Linda Hibbert 2020-2020
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Secretary

Cody Leblanc 2019-2020
RMHSSecretary@gmail.com

Treasurer

Debbie Cuvelier 2020-2021
debbie.cuvelier@yahoo.com

RMHS State Representatives

Directors East:

Robin Vogel 2019-2020 robvogel71@gmail.com

Jon Barba 2019-2020 jwbarba48@gmail.com

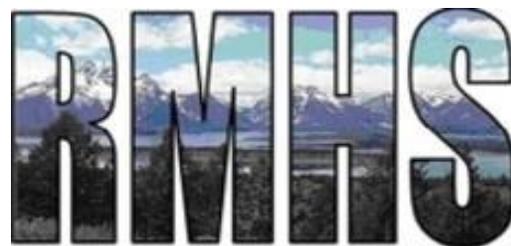
Graham Thomas 2020-2021 generationsrabbitry@gmail.com

Kandi Atwater 2020-2021 kandi.ka.rabbitry@gmail.com

Directors West:

Billy Clark 2019-2020 hillbillybunnies2@gmail.com

Mike Martinez 2020-2021 mlrabbitry18@gmail.com



Newsletter submission deadlines:

Nov

Articles due by 11/1 and out by 11/15

These are tentative dates but would like to stick to them as best possible.

Mary Ellen LeBlanc

Additional Staff

RMHS Club Charter

contact Linda Hibbert rmhsmemberships@gmail.com

RMHS New or Renewal Membership

contact Linda Hibbert rmhsmemberships@gmail.com

RMHS Club Show Sanctions

contact Robin Vogel robvogel71@gmail.com

Webpage Admin/Facebook Admin

contact Sonya Garcia triplehrabbits@gmail.com

RMHS Sweepstakes

contact Laurie Hauska hiddenlops@ftconnect.net

Newsletter

contact Mary Ellen LeBlanc codysmom0217@me.com

Reports

GRAHAM THOMAS—DIRECTOR EAST

Hi Everyone. I hope you, your family and your rabbits are all staying healthy during this time. There is very little to report since the last newsletter, as you probably all can imagine! I have tried my hand at a virtual show or two, and my photography skills are not up to snuff. I will try a couple for the MARCS "Virtual Convention" so I can be a part of the fun, but I am not expecting much! Continue to take this time to improve your stock- I know I am breeding harder than I ever have in the past. Find a friend to safely help you evaluate so you don't get barn blind. Rejoin your clubs (ARBA, National Breed Clubs, State and Local clubs and specialty clubs) to help keep their cash moving until sanctions and entry fees start up again.

Until Next Time,
Graham

ROBIN VOGEL—DIRECTOR EAST

As I write this I find I hard to believe that summer is almost over. To say we have missed the rabbit shows and friends we see at them would be a huge understatement!! With that being said; I do feel the rabbit community is strong and now is certainly the time to pull together. RHDV2 is effecting all of us and we must stick together. It is hard on everyone but now is certainly not the time to be moving rabbits, selling or bringing in new rabbits to your herd. I do believe strongly that shows will happen again, granted they may look different. At our barn we have certainly used this time to clean, breed, groom and try to improve our breeds.

To those in our rabbit community on the western slope....many prayers and hugs being sent to stay safe from the fires that are over taking the area. I feel confident when I say we are all hoping for rain and if we can help at all please do not hesitate to reach out.

I hope everyone is staying healthy during this crazy time of Covid19 and RHDV2. Definitely stay tuned to the ARBA and RMHS websites for continued guidance on RHDV2.

If you find yourself in a "lull" with rabbits check out all the online shows. They certainly do not take the place of in person shows but they are a great way to get comments on rabbits and learn about all the breeds. One of my favorite perks to the online shows is reading comments regarding breeds we do not see at our shows very frequently. Also a great way to get comments from a range of judges all across the nation and show with rabbits from vast areas; many of the shows even have international participation.

As always if you have any ideas or suggestions to improve upon RMHS please do not hesitate to reach out to me or any other board members. It truly is YOUR club!

Robin

KANDI ATWATER—DIRECTOR EASTERN SLOPE

Hello all,

I first would like to thank Shawn Layne for putting me in an eastern slope director position. I am excited to help RMHS. Many people already know of me but I have not been to a show in a long time so I would like to introduce myself to any that don't. I took last year off as I was pregnant and everyone knows what has went on since she was born in December. There is not much to report on in the rabbit world at this time. I know there are shows going on both virtually and in the eastern states so I hope people do not call it quits quite yet and sell out.

With that being said I know everyone is disappointed in not getting to show. I feel the same way. We all have our own opinions about the virus' that are going around, both human and rabbit, I think we can all agree that when it is over we can't wait to see our rabbit family. 2020 has been a crazy year to date, from mysterious drones to the election and everything in between.

I hope everyone is practicing good biosecurity to the best you can for your situation and staying safe in these unpredictable times. I hope to see you all again sooner than later.

Take care,
Kandi Atwater
Eastern Slope Director

Secretary Report Cody LeBlanc

TELL US
If you have changed your:
Name, address, phone number,
email address, etc.



Please make sure all email, mailing address and phone numbers are current/up to date.

Blessings,

Cody LeBlanc

RMHS Secretary

RMHSSecretary@gmail.com - RMHS Business
codysbouncingbunnies@gmail.com - Personal/Registrar Business
(303) 720-2350



[\[rmhshows.com\]](http://rmhshows.com)



RMHS TREASURER'S REPORT—Debbie Cavelier

RMHS Treasurers Report

6/28/2020

Checking Account \$3,303.74 General Account

\$2,341.55 Youth Account

Checking Account Total \$5,645.29

Time Account 8498 \$5,669.42

Time Account 8118 \$5,703.36

Total All Accounts \$17,018.0

NGRBA

Hello everyone. As most you probably know we have cancelled our September 26th NGRBA rabbit show which we hope to hold in 2021 on September 18 or 25th. While checking with the Sky Ute fairgrounds, I discovered that even without the rabbit virus issues, we would not be able to have the show there due to being closed down because of COVID.

Hopefully 2020 will be gone soon and life can resume somewhat normally in 2021.

Stay safe, take care of yourselves, family, friends and of course the rabbits.

Sandy Wade

NGRBA show secretary

Colorado River RBA

Colorado River Rabbit Breeders Association has rescheduled our 2020 show in Rifle to June 18th and 19th, 2021. Hopefully we can get RHDV2 under control by then and be able to hold it. I think everyone misses in person shows! Stay safe and healthy this fall!

Sonya Garcia

CRRBA President

Rabbits:

As with many County Fairs this year things looked very different. Due to Covid19 and Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease (RHD), this year Rabbit & Cavy events went virtual. Definitely a challenge for all, but thanks to the dedication of the 4-H members, Adams County Extension Staff and Judges all willing to be flexible and think outside the box we did it!

For the Rabbit Classes members submitted photos of their animals for judging. In addition to Breed and Meat Classes members were able to compete in Litter Pen, Dress-A-Bunny, Poster Contest and Showmanship.

For complete Fair results, visit <http://adams.colostate.edu/4h/fair/results.htm>

Congratulations to all the participants.

Breed Classes

BIS – Shilyn Barnum – French Lop Solid Sr. Doe

RIS – Morgan Barba – English Lop Solid Sr. Doe

Breed	BOB		BOS	
American Sable	Shaelon Barnum	Sr. Doe	Shilyn Barnum	Sr. Buck
Dutch	Trinity Vierow	Sr. Doe		
Dwarf Hotot	Elizabeth (Liz) Hightower	Sr Buck		
English Lop	Morgan Barba	Solid Sr. Doe	Morgan Barba	Broken Sr. Buck
French Lop	Shilyn Barnum	Solid Sr. Doe	Shilyn Barnum	Broken Sr. Buck
Himalayan	Shaelon Barnum	Sr. Buck	Zach Hightower	Sr. Doe
Holland Lop	Ellarae Kreutzer	Solid Sr. Buck		
Lionhead	Trinity Vierow	Sr. Doe		
Mini Lop	Savannah DeKruif	Broken Sr. Buck	Ellarae Kreutzer	Solid Jr. Doe
Mini Rex	Tessa Kappan	Broken Jr. Buck	Abby Bernhardt	Solid Sr. Doe
Mini Satin	Shilyn Barnum	Sr. Doe	Shaelon Barnum	Sr. Buck
Rex	Abigail Grein	Broken Sr. Buck		
Tan	Morgan Barba	Sr. Buck	Morgan Barba	Sr. Doe
Thrianta	Claire Rowan	Sr. Buck		

Meat Pen

Shilyn Barnum	Grand Champion
EllaRae Kreutzer	Res. Grand Champion

Shilyn Barnum Best in Show
2020 Adams County Fair



Single Fryer

Shilyn Barnum	Grand Champion
Shaelon Barnum	Res. Grand Champion

Doe & Litter

Morgan Barba	Champion	English Lop
Shaelon Barnum	Res. Champion	Himalayan

Submitted by Rosie Scanlon & Rita Lipke Adams County 4-H Rabbit Superintendents

Lincoln County Fair Results

Stephanie Zwick



Tyler Zwick was able to show in person at our Lincoln County Fair August 4th that was held in Hugo, CO along with two other 4H youth. They were allowed one meat pen of three rabbits each. The way they were allowed to have the rabbit show was only the 4H youth and their parents were allowed at the show. The kids judged each others rabbits for the first time ever. After the show was over kids took picture with their rabbits for the 4H sale. After pictures all the rabbits we taken and processed for consumption off location. The kids and parents had to change clothes/shoes then were allowed to continue with their other fair animals. It was a great experience for them to judge each other animals. It gave each 4H member a new sense of how they were doing breeding their own market rabbits.

Jeffco County Fair Updates

Carrie Heater

The Jeffco 4H Fair Rabbit Show was held on Wednesday, August 5th, and it was great to see our rabbit project members in person rather than via zoom! Our pair of stuffed rabbits for showmanship that were allowed out of quarantine for the day were very well behaved. We had Lysol the dwarf Flemish Giant and Bleach the miniature American White. Senior Showmanship Grand Champion was Aspen T scoring 199 of 200 points, with Elizabeth S as the Reserve Champion with 197 points. Intermediate Showmanship Grand Champion was Boston J followed by Madison K as Reserve Champion. Junior Showmanship Grand Champion was Dalton R and Lucy H Reserve Champion. Cadence and Sierra E topped the novice class. Lucy H won Grand Champion in both the Market and Doe/Litter classes, with Clara H as Reserve Champion in Doe/Litter. Maura T had an excellent video submission to win Grand Champion of the pet class, followed by Lucy H.



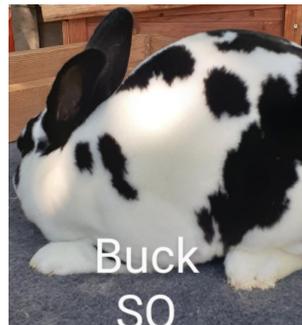
Some fun rabbit remarks from Joan Roy...

All my 4h kids are now young adults, but I would love to see how the 4h kids did this year.

As for me it has been a tough year. I prefer to go to a show, to see everyone and see the mini rex be judged. I did not have time to figure out line show. As of now I am over loaded with mini rex. Three of which are show quality. Two broken blacks and one broken otter. All are 4 months old. The rest are pet quality.

Really would love to see more pictures of mini rex.

What do you think of these beauties.



Douglas County Fair

Robin Vogel

Just like all the County Fairs in Colorado, Douglas County had to get creative to show rabbits this year. With great teamwork, dedicated youth, supportive parents and a fabulous judge lineup we had a “fair.”

Showmanship was done via Zoom and the youth excelled. I think they were less nervous and the rabbits seemed calmer in their home environments. Cody LeBlanc was our judge and was able interact with the exhibitors and still asked everyone questions about their breed.

We succeeded in showing meat pens in person by only allowing the market rabbits and then immediately culling them. The show was closed to the public and off limit to all except youth with market rabbits. Natures Educators benefited from the immediate donation of all the market rabbits. The youth participated in sale but had a large poster of themselves and their market rabbits. The buyers continued to support the kids during the sale. Congratulations to RMHS youth members Adyson Vogel, Champion Meat Pen and Nathan Bomgaars Reserve Champion Meat Pen.

The actual rabbit show was done online and the youth did a great job posing their rabbits and submitting picture collages. Daniel Barret judged the market show and the online rabbit show. We then had a Zoom meeting where Daniel announced BIS and RIS. Congratulations to Adyson Vogel, BIS and Allison Wagester RIS. We had a variety of breeds shown and Daniel complimented the youth on the quality of their rabbits.

Was it the same fair as past years.....No. Was it as great as an in person show....No. We are however thankful the youth were able to participate in fair and able to show off their hard work!

Results from the 2020 Adams County Fair Cavy, Rabbit Hopping & Rabbits

Adams County did things a little differently this year with its County Fair – virtual shows for both the rabbit and cavy projects. Because of concerns centering around the Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease (RHD), Fair superintendents decided to host virtual shows for the safety of all rabbit and cavy projects. This included the county only project rabbit hopping.

For rabbit hopping, each member was provided with an At Home Kit that included the supplies to make five jumps for a virtual fun show. Think cardboard toilet paper rolls and wooden dowels. Each “jump” was three inches high and by jumping over five jumps, turning around, and jumping over them again, participants were able to complete a ten-jump course. 4-H members submitted their videos online for judging and Claire Rowan earned Champion with a perfect run while Savannah De Kruiif brought home Reserve Champion.

The cavy show was also virtual, and participants were able to compete in showmanship and a cavy show as well as the dress a cavy, photo, and poster contests. Senior Morgan Barba earned Best in Show with her American black senior sow and Zach Hightower earned Reserve Best in Show with his White Crested Red senior boar.

For complete Fair results, visit <http://adams.colostate.edu/4h/fair/results.htm>

Submitted by Sarah Barba – Adams County 4-H Cavy & Rabbit Hopping Superintendent

The 97th ARBA Convention is coming to a computer near you!!

Marcskonventions.com
[Facebook.com/MARCSSHOWS](https://www.facebook.com/MARCSSHOWS)



Virtual Youth Contests!

Please watch the RMHS Youth Contests Facebook page and check your emails for updates on the virtual contests for Youth. Breed ID, Management, Royalty, T-Shirt Contest and more will be held virtually for 2020

Elbert County Fair 2020

Elbert County Fair this year was not normal in any way. We started with cancelling our 2020 Triple ARBA and RHMS shows for year. Not only did we cancel our sanctioned shows, but we modified our County Fair show by having our entire rabbit project virtual. This was an incredible learning experience on every end.

We hosted showmanship via a zoom call. The kids signed up via sign up genius for a specific time to log on to present. We had one long zoom call where there was a waiting room in place and Kathleen Obrecht was our room monitor. She would be sure the kids logged off the call before admitting the next on in from the waiting room and answer any questions our judge had. We had the honor to have Jerry Parks be our showmanship judge.

The kids can show in three rabbit project areas: Pet/Companion Rabbit, Market and Breeding Rabbit.

Our pet/companion rabbit class is for any rabbit that is fixed, crossbred or is purebred but just does not meet ARBA show standards.

Our Breeding Rabbit class is for purebred rabbits. We structure our show like an ARBA show. Due to being 4-H, some leniency is given where they are not necessarily disqualified but rather used as a learning experience. Between pet and breeding the kids are permitted 14 rabbits to exhibit.

Our Market class follows ARBA's standards and the kids must own the does and raise the litters. They are permitted 2 meat pens and 3 single fryers weighting 3 1/2 to 5 1/2 lbs.

The kids were asked to email picture collages for each entry that included profiles of the top, side, and back profiles. They also had to include the ear tattoo. Then they were asked to label each collage with breed, age, sex, and tattoo.

The market rabbits' collages required some additional pictures and information. They were asked to add to their collage a picture of the rabbit on the scale showing the weight and ear tattoo. Then they were to label the picture Fryer or Pen, breed, weight, and tattoo.

They had to do individual picture collages for each rabbit in a pen. Then they were asked to submit individual pictures of the pen together in a side, top, rear, and front profile. They were asked to label each rabbit with their tattoo.

They were given deadlines to submit all collages. The collages were then taken and arranged into 3 separate power point presentations: Pet/Companion, Breeding, and Market.

The pet/companion power point was arranged by sex and age. The breeding power point was arranged just like an ARBA show but on paper. Before each breed was a slide that stated what the breed was with a breakdown of varieties and how many of each age category. The market power point was arranged in two parts, Meat pens and single fryers. Single fryers and pens were entered as A, B, C etc. Each power point had listed instructions on what was required and how we place and who is eligible to come back up for Grand and Reserve Overall Pet or Breeding or Market Rabbit. Then the power points were sent via drop box with permissions to edit, to our judge, Scott Rodriguez. Scott was then able to insert slides with his placings and comments. By setting up the shows in power point, no one knew who owned what rabbit(s). Only picture collages were seen. We hosted a zoom results show, where we went over every slide and comments and announced how everyone placed. Then everyone was sent the power points in drop box to view.

It was huge of the kids to stayed with the project and took on doing a virtual show. Defiantly not ideal but they were still able to show and sell in the terminal market sale. Our market sale was all virtual and we everyone had a specific date and time to bring their animals to the fairgrounds to load on the truck for the processor.

We thank Jerry and Scott for judging our 2020 Elbert County Fair!

We are looking forward to next year and planning to host our Triple ARBA and RMHS sanctioned shows next year to kick off fair! Thank you everyone who has supported ever supported.

Sincerely,

Kim Tervort, Elbert County Rabbit 4-H Superintendent

Starting January 2020 RMHS will only accept Show Sanction requests online. You will need to fill out the Online form and include payment at the time you submit your show request.

Please remember all sanctions must be requested at least 30 days before your show date.

This year Elbert County Fair placings are as follows:

Pet/Companion Project:

Grand Champion: Randi Carson with a satin junior buck #KS8

Reserve Grand Champion: Cade Tervort with a mini rex senior buck #BBIT

Breeding Project:

Grand Champion: Dayton Tervort New Zealand Black Senior Doe #RAVEN

Reserve Grand Champion: Cade Tervort Californian Senior Doe #AMUN

Market Project:

Grand Champion: Dayton Tervort New Zealand Single Fryer #BM5

Reserve Grand Champion: Dayton Tervort New Zealand Meat Pen #BW3, #BD2, #BH7

Showmanship Seniors:

Grand Champion: Trevor Griffin

Reserve Grand Champion: Tanner Grant

Showmanship Intermediate:

Grand Champion: Dayton Tervort

Reserve Grand Champion: Luke Chisholm

Showmanship Junior:

Grand Champion: Luke Offutt

Reserve Grand Champion: Cade Tervort



Rio Blanco County Fair

Sonya Garcia

The Rio Blanco County fair was held the week of August 8th. Unfortunately due to RHDV2 the rabbit show was held via zoom but we still had fun! We only had showmanship but the 8 kids did great and learned a lot this year and how to overcome challenges. Most were first year rabbit members. The kids were still able to sell their market projects during the sale holding photos. I didn't get very many photos due to the online side of the show but here is a sale photo of Hayden and Hoyt.



RMHS Memberships or Club Charters

Linda Hibbert is now doing the RMHS Memberships and RMHS Club Charters . If you have any question concerning your RMHS memberships or Club Charters please contact her at rmhsmembership@gmail.com

Rmhshows.com—Rocky Mountain High Shows, Inc.

Do you know what can be found on the website?? It is a wealth of information!!

Show Dates

Sweepstakes Points

Guide to

Youth Information—Scholarship/Contests

Breed Club Information

Breeder Referral Information

Club Officers—Contact information

Photos

Information and updates

Membership and Club Charter Information

How to information under the member link

Please check out the website. Let us know what else you would like to see included.

ARBA Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease Policy

August 14, 2020

Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease (RHD) is a highly contagious disease caused by a calicivirus. Previous to 2020 it was assumed that the virus only affected rabbits of the *Oryctolagus cuniculus* species. This includes wild and domestic European rabbits, which our domesticated rabbits are descended from. However, a new variant of the virus is now able to infect North American native rabbits or hares, such as our cottontails, snowshoe hares, or jackrabbits. Based on ongoing outbreaks within the USA the ARBA has the following recommendations. This policy will be constantly monitored and can be modified as needed per USDA guidelines and recommendations.

- Any ARBA sanction held by a club within 250 miles of an active RHD outbreak will be cancelled, and the club provided the opportunity to reschedule the date / location for a future ARBA sanctioned show. Clubs forced to reschedule shows due to enforcement of the ARBA RHD policy will be provided every opportunity to reschedule their sanctioned show without adhering to the 30-days deadline.
- Exhibitors, judges, registrars, transporters, and vendors residing in or traveling by motor vehicle through an area of the country that is part of an active RHD outbreak are discouraged from attending ARBA sanctioned shows in other areas or having contact with other rabbit breeders for 60 days of the last RHD confirmed positive case. Clubs are encouraged to acknowledge the potential need to cancel contracts due to RHD concerns when soliciting contractors to officiate or vend at ARBA sanctioned shows. While this 60-day period of time may have lapsed, this does not in any way indicate that the area is free of RHD and clubs and members should exercise all necessary precautions and bio-security measures prior to hosting or traveling to a show.
- ARBA sanctioned cavy-only specialty shows may be held provided the club's show rules contain a specific prohibition against rabbits being on the premises of the show site during the sanctioned show. The club must also provide the following awareness in their official show catalog: "Attendees must be aware that although RHD does not infect cavies, the virus may be transmitted even without direct contact with rabbits. Many cavy breeders also raise rabbits; therefore, robust bio-security measures must be taken in order to reduce the risk of transmission of this deadly virus." Judges residing in or traveling by motor vehicle through states with active RHD outbreaks are discouraged from officiating, although the ARBA recognizes the contractual agreements are made with the club hosting the show.
- Clubs are strongly encouraged to disinfect equipment prior to set up for their show. The RHD calicivirus is inactivated by sodium hypochlorite, household bleach. To prepare add one-half cup of sodium hypochlorite to one gallon of water. Alternatively, Virkon S is effective when prepared as a 1% solution. It is recommended that organic debris such as feces, fur, and urine be completely removed from show equipment. Once cleaning of show equipment has been performed it is recommended to let the equipment dry in the sun. Clubs are encouraged to not use equipment that is maintained in or traveling through an area of the country with an active RHD outbreak. It is recommended that reasonable efforts are made to have disinfectant spray accessible during shows.
- When accepting pre-entries for a show, should an exhibitor's address be within 150 miles of a confirmed RHD outbreak the show secretary may contact the ARBA office to confirm the status of the 150 mile requirement.
- Show personnel, judges, and registrars are encouraged to use reasonable precautions including the use of hand sanitizer and disinfectant spray when working at a show.
- Owners who have experienced RHD infections in their herd are required to report the infection to ARBA and are ineligible to participate in ARBA sanctioned shows for a period of 4 months from the last RHD-related death.

PREVIOUSLY ENACTED

- The ARBA mandates that all rabbits imported from a foreign country with a recently documented RHDV outbreak, regardless of variant or strain, in the past 60 days must be quarantined for a minimum of 30 days prior to entry in a national convention or local show.
- Rabbits imported from another country at risk or endemic for RHDV must have documentation with the date arriving into the USA clearly listed on the supporting documentation along with verification from a licensed veterinary professional stating that the rabbits imported have been quarantined for 30 days and exhibit no signs of sickness that would suggest RHDV infection or exposure. Failure to provide these documents constitute a violation of the rules stated above. Rabbits vaccinated for RHDV and/or Myxomatosis in another country must have appropriate documentation indicating the vaccine was administered with appropriate booster, if necessary.
- Any ARBA member traveling to a country where RHDV is endemic will be subject to increase scrutiny and/or restriction in attending local or national ARBA shows on a case by case basis reviewed by the ARBA Board of Directors with input from the Rabbit & Cavy Health Committee. This will be vigorously enforced should the member travel to the country during a current or emerging outbreak of the virus.

ARBA Show Rule-

SECTION 15. (D) The American Rabbit Breeders Association host club must refuse entries from exhibitors placing an entry from all locations within 150 miles which has had a confirmed outbreak of RCV/RHD/VHD within the past 60 days of the entry deadline.



LEMONS OR LEMONADE?

Pros and Cons of Virtual Shows

By Linda Hibbert

My friend and fellow rabbit breeder, Robin Vogel (with her daughter Adyson) and I have participated in several of the online rabbit show and have had fun, learned a lot and had some lively virtual discussions about the judging – does that sound like a real show???? **The Pros**

According to Adyson: ***The best part of the virtual show experience is spending time in the rabbitry***, focused on the exact same things as you would if you were headed to a REAL show that weekend. That means grooming, evaluating, posing. Additionally you will learn about photographing your rabbits. Perhaps more surprisingly you will learn that the visual image lends an unbiased (not barn blind) image of the rabbit. When that image portrays a less than perfect rabbit you ask WHY? We learned that sometimes it is the photography, but often it is that the clarity of a still photograph points out details you have overlooked – often things you don't LIKE!

Judge's comments are printed and easily available and legible. When a judge comments that your rabbit 'appears to be pinched in the hindquarters' you can bet you are going out to check out your rabbit – Is that true? Is it pinched? Or is the photography at the wrong angle or the rabbit posed incorrectly? This is not a passing comment that you barely heard at a show, but a black and white, printed comment that you can take with you to re-evaluate your rabbit!

I believe another outstanding reason to show in a virtual show include ***the opportunity to continue your breeding program and still show the rabbit/doe.*** Pregnant or nursing does may be able to be photographed and entered. You may have a buck you feel is too valuable to risk taking to a show – but you can surely enter a visual show with him.

According to Robin: ***Aspiring registrars or judges*** have the real opportunity to study rabbit breeds and understand the comments made by the judges. They can place the classes themselves and compare to how the judge placed the class and then study why the judge placed the class the way she did.

The CONS

It is no secret that the visual aspect of our rabbits is only part of the picture. The best we can do is provide excellent photographs that show enough of the rabbit so a judge can make an educated guess regarding the rabbit, the condition of the wool/fur and the body structure. The more experienced judges will be able to look beyond the wool, or the awkward pose. Some breeds are 'fancy' breeds and the visual impact is more critical in placing a class, and other breeds are commercial in some aspect and require a good assessment of condition, fur or body type. With that in mind, a strictly visual assessment may be more fair for some breeds than others. Also the skill of the photographer is inherent to the presentation. Like any other part of our hobby, there is a learning curve to successfully compete in virtual shows.

Robin, Adyson and me: ***The other technical difficulty is that the judge knows the name of the exhibitor.*** We explored ways to create some anonymity by uploading photographs into albums without the exhibitor name In a show I was helping with, but found no way to do that efficiently. I am sure this aspect is being worked on, and some organizer will brilliantly solve this and address it effectively. At the moment, judge bias to or against an exhibitor can easily be a real 'thing'.

Probably the biggest objection to exhibiting in virtual shows is that DQs will not be recognized. You could potentially show that buck in a doe class either on purpose or not. The rabbit may easily exceed the weight limit of the class or be in the wrong age division. The rabbit may be missing several toes. Or have malocclusion. Basic things like incorrect eye color or even incorrect coat color cannot be accurately determined. This is the main reason ARBA champion legs and even sweepstakes points cannot be awarded.

A possible solution to this is a 'certification' by ARBA registrars (The bunny is not registered, but *certified* regarding DQs and could be accomplished on 3-4 month old rabbits – requires all sorts of new things from ARBA, but has far reaching possibilities) Other possible solutions to the weight and confirmation of bunny tattoo, would be to require a 30 second continuous video for all winning rabbits showing tattoo and weight, taken within 7 days, but not presented unless that rabbit wins the class. Video required to officially WIN the class.

Jump on the bandwagon! Hone your cell phone photo skills and download an app for making collages. Get ready for a new rabbit showing experience. I sincerely doubt that virtual shows will die away with the Covid virus. On some level they are here to stay.

The things you will learn will surprise you. You will find the photos will reveal strengths and flaws in your rabbits that you were unaware of. You will learn to look at your rabbit's photos with a much keener eye. Culling may be more effective because the still photo provides a true picture of what is in front of you. You will realize what is very visual in your breeds SOP and which things are harder to discern without hands on. For sure, if you take the time to take the pictures you will be teaching your rabbits to pose and your bunnies will be better behaved on the table when we get back to that. Many of the online shows have the potential for the judges to evaluate rabbits from around the world, which could never happen physically.

No it isn't the same. We all miss the periodic gatherings of our rabbit families. They say if you are given lemons, make lemonade. I think the virtual show experience is a pretty sweet solution to a pretty sour situation.





AMERICAN RABBIT BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

Devoted to the Interest of Rabbit Raising for Fancy and Commercial
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ARBA 2020 NATIONAL YOUTH T-SHIRT DESIGN CONTEST

ARBA 2020 NATIONAL YOUTH ROYALTY CONTESTS

ARBA 2020 NATIONAL INDIVIDUAL CONTESTS

ARBA 2020 NATIONAL YOUTH EDUCATIONAL CONTESTS

ARBA 2020 NATIONAL TEAM JUDGING CONTEST

ARBA 2020 NATIONAL TEAM QUIZ BOWL CONTEST

ARBA 2020 NATIONAL TEAM BREED IDENTIFICATION CONTEST

NOTE: Due to the cancelation of the 2020 ARBA Convention, these ARBA Youth Contests will not be offered. ARBA Youth members may participate in the National Youth Achievement Contest and the National Youth Management Contest in 2020.

The MARCS convention committee is offering a variety of youth contests and activities as part of their online 2020 National Rabbit Exposition. More information will be available through their website: <https://www.marcsconventions.com/>.

Recipe Corner



Grandma V's Rabbitry added a new photo to the album: **Rabbit Recipes.**

July 17 at 5:36 PM · 🌐

So, leftover rabbit chunks from kabobs...

Garlic Honey Butter Rabbit

INGREDIENTS

- 1-1/2 pounds rabbit
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon pepper
- 3 tablespoons butter
- 4 garlic cloves minced
- 3-4 tablespoons Honey
- 1- 1/2 tablespoons apple cider vinegar
- Fresh chopped parsley or green onions for garnish

INSTRUCTIONS

- Cut rabbit into small bite sized pieces.
- Heat olive oil and 1 tablespoon butter in a large skillet (cast iron works best) on high heat.
- Add the rabbit to the skillet, sprinkle with salt and pepper. Let cook until it starts to change from pink to white and get some golden edges about 4-5 minutes.
- Add the butter, garlic, vinegar and honey. Stir until rabbit is coated.
- Simmer sauce and rabbit to caramelize the outside about another 2-3 minutes.
- Top with fresh chopped parsley or green onions. Serve rabbit over rice.